

## Volume 2, Issue 1

January—March  
2010Maricopa County Animal  
Care and Control

## Trailin' Tails Newsletter

## Don't Leave Your Pets Behind



One of the many cats that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— he got one!

A pack of skinny dogs running through the park. Cats placed in a carrier and left in an alley. A shelter full of dogs and cats looking sadly through their kennels at passersby. All of these have become a reality in Maricopa County. They are a part of the down economy, people losing their jobs and houses. The dogs and cats that make it into the shelter are the lucky ones. Pets that were once owned and then turned loose have a poor chance of surviving on their own. They do not know how to hunt for food. They do not know how to stay safe or fight for their lives.

Many people are struggling to keep their head above water. Sometimes that means giving up a beloved pet. But there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. If you can no longer care for your pet, do one last thing for them. Bring them to a shelter. The shelter keeps them off the street. The shelter gives them food and water. The shelter keeps them safe from cars and predatory animals. The shelter gives them a second chance at finding another family to love them.



Abandoning an animal is not only cruel, but it is illegal in the State of Arizona. According to the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 13, it is considered cruelty if an animal under a person's custody is abandoned by said person. If caught, you could face jail time or fines.

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control has seen an increase of animals come into the shelter. Their goal is to find homes for as many of them as is possible. They can't do it without the community's involvement. Review all your options before surrendering your pet. Ask family and friends if they can care for him (her). If you decide you need to surrender your pet, please bring them to a shelter so they will be safe and cared for. If you are thinking about getting a pet, now is a great time to adopt. You will be giving an animal the gift of a second chance at love and life.

MCACC has two shelters in the valley. They are located at: 2500 S. 27th Avenue in Phoenix and 2630 W. 8th Street in Mesa. For more information, visit [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

## Inside this issue:

Vet's Corner	2
Employee Profile	3
Pet Fire Safety	4
Become a Volunteer	5
Dog Houses Built for Shelter Dogs	6
Day at Park Goes to the Dogs	7

## Students Collect for the Animals

Students at Fees Middle School collected donations for the animals at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. Upon hearing about it at their school dance, the students jumped right in asking their families, neighbors and teachers to give. They easily loaded up the back of a truck with donations. The delivery was made to the Mesa shelter and was much appreciated. There is nothing like students taking time to give to the community.

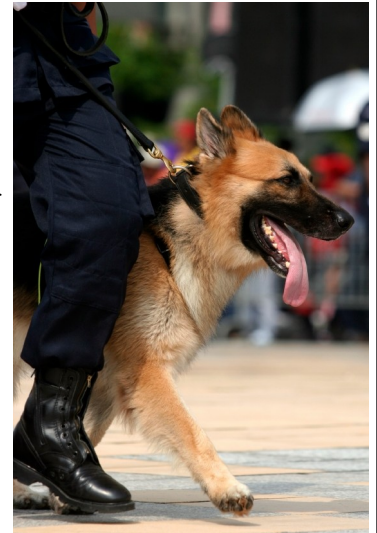




One of the many dogs that have come through our doors needing a new home—he got one!

## Veterinarian's Corner: Training Your Dog

A dog trainer once told me "There can only be one leader - if *you* are not the leader, then you will be the follower". Yes, he was talking about my dog. Because I did not set boundaries for my dog, the dog told me what my boundaries were. So what does the person-as-leader relationship look like? If I do not spend time training my dog for how I want it to act when he is young, I am setting myself up for problems when he is an adult. So I start off meal feeding my dog (and my cat by the way), asking him to sit and wait until I let him know it is ok to eat. I may have to guide him to the sit position by pushing his rump down (the old choke chain trainers taught me this) or guide his nose up with a treat (a bit of his food) until he sits then give the treat (the positive reinforcement training method). It can depend on the dog which works better. Because I am also housetraining him, I feed at the same time each day so that I can plan when he needs to be outside. This was I can be with him to 1) give a cue word when I see him in position and 2) reward him for going outside. Once he has these three things down (sit on command, wait for food and potty outside) then we can work on laying-on-command (again before each meal), walk on a leash (some folks do this when they are teaching the potty outside), and come when I call (if you are calling the dog to his meal, you have this one set up also). Please don't call your dog to punish him - catch him in the act and punish at that time otherwise you are punishing him for coming to you. Or if you go get him to take him back to the scene of the crime, you are punishing him for getting caught. This may make him want to run away from you. Some dogs are fast learners, some owners are consistent teachers and if the two happen to occur together, each step may take a week. Sometimes the training can take a month (like with my cat - who goes out on a leash to potty so I don't have to spend money on litter and I don't have to worry about feeding my cat to the coyotes in the neighborhood). If I continue the training throughout my pet's life, I can ask my pet to get on the furniture when I feel like company, but I can ask him to get down when my husband wants to cuddle with me and the dog won't growl or bark because he lost his place; I can ask the dog to sing for his supper but he does not bark to get my butt out of bed to feed him on Saturday morning; I can take him to the dog park and have a reliable recall when I note an out of control dog on its way in to play; I can talk on the phone or have company over and not have



to talk over my dog's barking or antics; I can come home an hour late from work and not have things destroyed, a mess to clean up or an overzealous greeting. What's more, my dog is happy to learn new "tricks" because I am spending time with him (I bet the treats are a motivator also). To me these are all great reasons to start training early and continue training throughout the life of your pet.

### Animal First Aid Kit:

- First Aid Book
- Gauze Pads
- Bandages
- Cotton Tipped Applicators
- Muzzle
- Cold Pack
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Disposable Gloves

## Employee Profile: Business Office Staff

Licensing your pet? Need a rabies vaccination for your cat? Looking for your lost dog? Want to adopt a new family member? At Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC), Francisco Morales can help you. You may think that working at the front counter of the shelter is just a simple desk job, but in fact, front-line employees like Francisco have to know everything that's going on at the shelter – from how long each animal has been there and when they can be adopted, to which animals have special conditions or circumstances, even what new laws affect shelter operations. They also have to have empathy without being emotional, the ability to educate without preaching, and diplomatic skills without bias.



Francisco thrives in this dynamic environment, and knows that at the end of the day, what he does makes a difference. Every owner he can reunite with their pet, every new adoption he can facilitate, every mistreated animal he can bring into the care of the shelter is hugely rewarding for him. And in the three years he's worked at MCACC, he has come to love and respect animals much more than he ever had before, and has a deeper appreciation for how many are in need.

In fact, he has adopted two cats, a St. Bernard and a Shih Tzu since coming to the agency.

His path to this job was not typical though. He started out as a cryptolinguist in the intelligence arm of the Air Force, and then worked for the Salt River Project. From there, he took a sabbatical and explored France, Spain and the Netherlands. Upon his return to the States, he took a job at Wells Fargo, but after only about six weeks, he knew it wasn't a good fit for him.

So he answered an ad for an office assistant job with Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. At that time, MCACC was still housed at the old

shelter on the west side, and it was not the most appealing atmosphere to say the least. But he was impressed with how friendly and down-to-earth everyone was who worked there, and so he accepted the job, which he was offered on the same day he interviewed.

What is the one thing Francisco most wants people to take away from their experience at the shelter? Love your pets. Take the time and interest to develop that special bond with them. Recognize how much animals can enrich our lives, and do the same for them.



One of the many cats MCACC has taken in needing forever homes.

## Scooter Fiesta Success Helps to Create Fund for Injured Animals

This past October, a new event was held in the east valley with proceeds going to Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC). The Great Southwest Scooter Fiesta was a three day event with scooter rides, meals and many fun activities. The main event was a day long rally.



Scooter enthusiasts (as well as the general public) showed up at Joe's Farm Grill in Gilbert for a fun-filled day. The event featured MCACC's Mobile Adoptions Bus and many scooter related vendors. ASU's Museum for Kids sponsored an area, and a band was on hand for entertainment.

Raffle tickets were sold before and during the event, with the grand prize being one of two scooters. The event brought many people together, highlighted scooters and showcased the animals of MCACC. The event raised more than \$4300.

The money will go to the startup of a new program – The Sunny Fund. Sunny came to MCACC as a 2 month old pit bull with severe burns on his back. He was in MCACC's clinic care for two months, getting hydrotherapy baths, creams, and surgeries to remove dead skin. This fund will help in the care of the animals that come to MCACC in need of extra treatments and surgery.

## Spay and neuter your pets

*Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC gets in over 55,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets! MCACC's SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program) offers a free spay or neuter surgery for your cat or dog. Please visit us on the web at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) for more information.*





**MCACC took in over 55,000 dogs and cats last year. Please give one a good home!**

## The Importance of Spay and Neuter

Each year, millions of animals are euthanized in shelters across the country. Most of these animals are happy and healthy and would make someone a great companion if only there were enough homes. Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) is dedicated to reducing the number of unwanted pets through spaying and neutering. As Spring arrives, so will the litters of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Besides reducing the pet overpopulation, sterilization provide many benefits, both for pets and pet owners:

Keeps your pet healthy, and helps reduce costly medical bills.

Reduces the chance your pet will get lost, since he or she won't have the urge to roam and seek a mate.

Helps prevent behavior problems, such as aggression, spraying, and marking territory.

Reduces the cost of a dog license, since the license for spayed or neutered dogs is only \$16.

MCACC offers several spay/neuter services: You can attend one of our Uno por Uno spay neuter events. The Uno por Uno program visits a different community each month holding clinics. Please check [www.unoporuno.org](http://www.unoporuno.org) to find out where the next clinic will be held.

You can apply for MC SNAP, which provides no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of people in financial need. Once your application has been approved, we will issue you a voucher. With that voucher, you must schedule a surgery appointment with one of the contracted veterinarians identified on the voucher, to occur within 90 days of the issue date. For an application, please come into one of our shelters at the beginning of each month.

Thank you for being a responsible pet owner and for helping reduce the problem of pet overpopulation in Maricopa County.

## Pet Fire Safety

We hear all the time about fire safety and what we can do to keep our family safe. But have you ever thought about how to ensure your pets don't have an encounter with fire? And what if your family has to leave your house because of a fire? Do you know what to do with your pets?

One of the most dangerous things in your household for pets is burning candles. Long tails can very easily knock a candle over. Think about where you place them. If you have a cat, take into mind where your cat jumps up. Just because a candle is on the counter, does not make it safe. Remove all flammable materials safely out of your pets reach.

Electrical cords are another concern. Keep them out of reach to prevent chewing. An exposed wire could cause a fire or shock your pet.

In the case of a house fire, do you know what to do with your pet? You should have an emergency kit for them. It can include food and water, medicine, important papers (vaccination info, your info, veterinarian info). Your pet should always have a collar on with an ID tag. Even better, get all of your pets micro-chipped as they can't be removed. Plan ahead of time for a person or place to take your pet if you do have to leave and can't keep them with you. Planning ahead can keep you and your pets safe.



### Rabies Clinic

**Specials: \$20**

#### West and East Shelters

Sunday - 11—5:30 p.m.

Tues—Thurs 9—11 a.m.

## Thumper — A Foster Puppy Story

A couple of years ago, I got a call from the Alternative Placement Coordinator, Janet Aviles, that a little puppy had a heavy door fall on his leg. Resources were so limited that MCACC could not afford to have a vet look at it and fix it. I was warned that no one knew how bad the break was, but it could end up possibly costing thousands of dollars to get it set and fixed. Janet was hoping I could help. I took one look at this sweet little puppy and decided that he was my project! We were going to fix that leg!



I took him to my vet, Dr. Brian. He said that the break was bad, but not in multiple places. He gave me a large discount on the surgery and follow up care. So, rather than his care costing thousands of dollars, it only cost about \$800. Thank you, Dr. Brian!

We named the puppy Thumper since he thumped around on our tile floor in his little cast. Thumper lived with us for several weeks while his leg healed. He was a very sweet puppy and got along well with our foster kittens and our big dogs. Like many pets with injuries, he didn't realize he couldn't run with the big dogs and played happily with my dogs Rico and Kohl.



Thumper was eventually adopted by a wonderful nurse at the VA who has several other rescue dogs. She said everyone is doing great and Thumper is well loved by all. (Thanks to Ann Siner for sharing this story with us. Ann is a Friends of Animal Care and Control Board member and animal lover.)

## Become a Volunteer

Believe it or not, MCACC still needs more dedicated volunteers. Help is needed to assist with adoptions and socializing animals. This is a rewarding and dynamic volunteer experience waiting for you. Whether you are interested in walking dogs, petting kittens, or assisting with adoptions (at the shelter or off-site), there is a way you can help! MCACC volunteers have the ability to make a difference in the lives and outcomes of our shelter pets. Become an integral part of the transition from shelter pet to forever homes. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (602) 506-8133 or by email: [sspinelle@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:sspinelle@mail.maricopa.gov)



If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit us at : [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!

**GoodSearch**  
powered by Yahoo! Search

Search the web with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the lucky cats to find a new home through MCACC this year.

## Group Builds Dog Houses for Shelter Dogs

On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, The Event Team and ADC partnered up to work for the animals at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. The Event Team hosted a team building event for ADC at The Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale. Thirty teams from all over the world worked together to build 15 small dog houses and 15 large dog houses for the animals at MCACC Shelters. Sofie Gracia, Cassandra Durkin, and Samantha Spinelle along with five MCACC Shelter dogs raised awareness of the plight of homeless pets among this international crowd. The employees of ADC enjoyed a fun-filled day of relay races, hoola-hoop contests and creating well-designed and imaginatively decorated dog houses. Two of the five MCACC canine ambassadors that attended the event, were adopted that day by hotel employees. The remaining three dogs have all found their forever homes too!



Once the dog houses were delivered to the MCACC West Valley Animal Care Center, they were paired with thirty dogs specially chosen to receive a dog house that would go home with them upon adoption. The chosen dogs had been at the shelter for more than 3 weeks and desperately needed to find their forever homes. Staff and volunteers took pictures of the chosen dogs and then attached their pictures to the appropriate dog houses. A bag of



complimentary dog food was added to each house. These colorful dog houses were placed throughout the West Valley Animal Care Center highlighting these fantastic dogs! Thanks to The Event Team, ADC and The Westin Kierland Resort all of the "dog house dogs" have found their forever homes or a place with our rescue/shelter partners in the community! The employees and animals of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control would like to send a warm thank you to our wonderful partners at The Event Team, ADC, and The Westin Kierland Resort for a truly heartwarming and terrific experience!



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get your pet spayed or neutered!



Call or email us and we'll bring the Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus to your business or neighborhood!

602-249-6504

[llong@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:llong@mail.maricopa.gov)

*Be sure to check out our web site every month to see what else is happening and where our Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus will be.*

<http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/News/Calendar.aspx>



## Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services. However, as a County department, MCACC is unable to solicit donations.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible for MCACC to reach its goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

Please send me information about the following

◇ How to Volunteer

◇ How to Donate

◇ Information on: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive your email newsletter!

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

### ***Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!***

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 9:35 a.m.
- Every 1st and 3rd Monday on Sonoran Living in Channel 15
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every Friday at 7:15 a.m. on KDKB
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5 FM

## Day at the Park Goes to the Dogs



MCACC teamed up with Arizona Service Animal Society and the City of Chandler to bring the community a day for the doggies at the second annual Woofstock event.

The event began with a dog walk and continued with activities galore. For the more than 3,000 people and 700 dogs, this was truly a day for all to enjoy. The event hosted a dog safety talk to ensure pet owners do all they can to protect their precious loved ones, and dog agility demonstrations to teach dog owners how to keep their furry friends fit and happy. Multiple musicians and bands provided upbeat music and set the tone for an atmosphere that was light, fun and energetic. All types of dogs took Woofstock by storm and contributed to the fun. There were several pet activity booths dedicated to the hundreds of wagging tails all around the park. One booth had pet photography and offered dog owners a free portrait of their pets. Also included in the line up were vendors who stuck with the dog-themed event and had several items for the animal lover for sale. There were



homemade doggie treats, dog paintings and portraits and cute, handmade dog clothes. Let's just say it's a good thing dogs don't have wallets, because they would've been broke after visiting all the booths! A first, the pets on parade walk, featured several canines, big and small, sporting costumes that caused the onlooker's hearts to melt. There were many "Aw's!" heard throughout the crowd when the contestants walked by. Although every dog proved worthy of first place, it was the cute dog in the dragon costume who took the prize. MCACC also brought some adoptable dogs and cats to work the crowd to find forever homes. 17 went home with their new families! Vet techs from the shelter were also on hand to give out reduced-cost vaccinations and microchips. At the end of the day, it was time for the raffle drawing for all of the wonderful gift baskets and prizes and time to close the silent auction full of wonderful items donated by generous companies and individuals. Both people and dogs alike helped raise more than \$1,000 for the homeless pets of Maricopa County!



**Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.**



Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center  
2500 S. 27th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Care Center  
2630 W. 8th St.  
Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: [ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov)

We're on the web!

[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care
- Stray dog pick up
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



## Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739  
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org)

## Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store



The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.

**FACCs Thrift Shop**  
12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)  
Phoenix, AZ 85022  
602-923-6914  
Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm  
Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Clothing, purses, jewelry and shoes                             | - Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads) |
| - Dishes, glassware, utensils                                     | - Kitchen and office appliances               |
| - Furniture - indoor and outdoor                                  | - Computers, printers, software               |
| - Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please) | - Artwork                                     |
| - Books   | - Cell phones, PDA's                          |
| - Tools   |   |

For a large item (or large amount), call us to arrange a free pick up at (602) 997-7399.

**FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.**

